

the first call to a family member or friend, a choice that you will never regret. This is the time of year that families get together

TIME.....make it a lasting wonderful time.

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Thanksgiving evening. Before their stomachs have settled from all the great turkey and dressing, those looking for the 'best deals' will venture off the couch to find that necessity. Still, thousands of bargain-hunters also shop certain

# Safety belt checkpoint sweetens ride home

By Keith Wilson

Student drivers at Biloxi High School left campus last Wednesday afternoon in the midst of a brief traffic delay thanks to one student organization promoting driver safety.

The Campus Security Council known as S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere) organized an unannounced safety belt checkpoint to ensure a safe ride home for all drivers just days before the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Biloxi High School Student Rose Le is President of S.A.V.E. and has been driving for almost 5 months. Le and about 10 of her club members lined the exit to Richard Drive for the checkpoint project, which provided drivers with a lollipop attached to a safety reminder as a sweet incentive for buckling up.

In Mississippi, the leading cause of death in teenagers is car crashes, which is one reason Le and her fellow S.A.V.E. members are hoping to change by providing students with the knowledge to make informed, safe and smart decisions on the road. A few months ago, one of Le's close friends was involved in a car wreck where the student driver hit



Photo by Keith Wilson, Streetcar PR/Biloxi-D'iberville Press

**S.A.V.E. President Rose Le (center), along with fellow members Rachel Cooke (top) and Amanda Pham (bottom), hands a lollipop-clad safety belt message to driver Cole Switzer during a traffic stop after school at Biloxi High School on Wednesday, November 18.**

a tree after losing control of the vehicle and was not wearing a safety belt. That accident was an eye-opener for the BHS junior, who believes these unannounced safety belt checkpoints are effective.

"Even though we already attend a school where we feel safe, it's even better to know that my classmates are comfortable as drivers to and from school," said Le. "If we all buckle up, it could save your life."

The goal of the checkpoints is to encourage safe driving according to Biloxi High School's Campus Police Officer Daisy McCarroll, who serves as the club's advisor.

"We try to get the students involved and make sure they're being safe and to bring awareness to student drivers that wearing safety belts is a number one priority," said McCarroll.

Although most were wearing

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tained some fish, dried fruit, clams, and plums. To show their

been declared. In 1863 President these events yet we still have Gulf Coast History.

# S.A.V.E.

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their seatbelts during the checkpoint, McCarroll reported nearly 300 suckers and safety message cards were distributed to students as well as parent drivers.

At the last checkpoint event, Troop K of the Mississippi Highway Patrol participated, and McCarroll recalled what happened to one parent who felt the project wasn't effective enough. "The parent refused to put on a safety belt during our checkpoint, and as a result, that same driver received a ticket on the second checkpoint by the highway patrol who was waiting just a few yards down the street from us," McCarroll noted. "If the parents do not set an example, the expectation that the children will learn lowers."

Biloxi High School's S.A.V.E. chapter was one of 15 in Mississippi to receive a \$1,000 grant from the Allstate Foundation to support teen safe driving initiatives. The students



Biloxi High School's Campus Police Officer Daisy McCarroll with members of the BHS S.A.V.E. chapter/

lead campaign efforts such as the safety belt checkpoints to help youth understand the dangers of distracted driving, but the organization also provides activities surrounding conflict management, bullying and violence prevention and peer mentoring to younger students.

In light of recent bomb threats reported at local schools

like D'Iberville and St. Martin High Schools as well as world conflicts such as those in Paris, Le and her fellow students say they often feel concerned about their safety at school. "It's scary to know these threats are happening around our own community," said Le. "We should not be subjected to this kind of safety issue, but it is a reality."

Officer McCarroll offered this advice, "Be vigilant of your surroundings at school and in the community. If you see something that makes you have those butterfly feelings, let us know because our roles exist at schools for the protection and safety of the students."

## Lick Granulomas: Frustrating lesions to deal with in dogs

By Dr. Chris Duke

ulomas is unknown. series of therapeutic laser thera-